Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, 1,779 Americans are missing from the Vietnam War, approximately 8,000 from the Korean War, 120 from the Cold War, over 78,000 from WW II, 1 still missing from the 1991 Gulf War, and 4 from Operation Iraqi Freedom, and their families, friends, and other concerned Americans must deal with uncertainty concerning their fate; and,

Whereas, The Bush Administration has maintained POW/MIA accounting as a priority of the United States, but budget shortfalls and mixed political signals are hampering efforts and corrective actions that need to occur; and,

Whereas, U.S. Government intelligence and other evidence indicate that most countries in which U.S. losses occurred could provide greater assistance to answer questions about missing Americans; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota commends and endorses the national commitment to account as fully as possible for Americans still missing from our nation's wars; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota calls on the President and Congress to continue to raise with foreign counterparts the need for increased action to help account for our missing – alive and dead – and return them to the United States; and,

Whereas, The state of South Dakota calls on Congress to make certain POW/MIA-related offices and organizations receive the assets and resources necessary to accomplish the principled mission to account for unreturned veterans to signal nations around the world that America stands behind those who serve:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 21, 2007, as

POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

in honor of all returned American POW/MIAs, and all Americans still captured, missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, Korean War, Cold War and WWII, as well as the 5 U.S. personnel missing and captured in Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War and Operation Iraqi Freedom, and encourage all citizens to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fourth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State